Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 37850 231605Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00
ERDA-05 FEA-01 PM-04 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /112 W
----------240236Z 107906 /67
R 231616Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8220
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 37850

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR, US, IN, UR
SUBJECT: FRENCH QUERIES US REACTIONS TO SOVIET HEAVY WATER SHIPMENTS TO INDIA

1. SUMMARY. MFA SCIENCE DIRECTOR DE NAZELLE ASKED EMBASSY OF US VIEWS ON RECENT SOVIET SHIPMENTS OF HEAVY WATER TO INDIA. HE BRIEFLY REVIEWED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF INDIA-IAEA DISCUSSIONS, CURRENT STATUS OF SHIPMENTS AND INDICATED FRENCH CONCERNS FOR SHIPMENT PRIOR TO APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON RESPONSE TO DE NAZELLE. END SUMMARY.
2. DE NAZELLE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY SHIPPED 68 TONS OF HEAVY WATER TO INDIA AS PART OF A 200 TON CONTRACT. IN ADDITION, HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SOVIETS LEFT TO INDIA THE JOB OF ESTABLISHING A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE IAEA EXTENDING SAFEGUARDS TO THIS MATERIAL. APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PARIS 37850 231605Z

INDIA CONTACTED THE IAEA THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE RIO MEETING AND IN OCTOBER THE IAEA RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY AND SINCE THAT TIME THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM INDIA. THE GOF WONDERS WHY THE SOVIETS AGREED THAT THE SALE OF HEAVY WATER BE COVERED ONLY WITH A BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. DE NAZELLE

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ALSO EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN THAT THE SHIPMENTS HAD BEEN PROVIDED PRIOR TO THE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS BEING CONCLUDED. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SOVIET STRONG PRESENTATIONS AT THE RECENT LONDON MEETING ON FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS, DE NAZELLE FEELS IT MOST INCONGRUOUS THAT THE SOVIETS REQUEST ONLY A BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND THE IAEA AND PROVIDE SHIPMENT PRIOR TO THE CONCLUSION OF THAT AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE FRENCH (IN THEIR NEW MODE OF CONCERN FOR NONPROLIFERATION PRINCIPLES) WOULD LIKE TO OBJECT TO THE SOVIET'S ACTION IN THIS MATTER BUT, AS DE NAZELLE AGREED, THE GOF IS NOT IN A VERY GOOD POSITION WITH REGARD TO COMPLAINING ABOUT SUPPORT TO INDIA GIVEN ITS HISTORY OF SUPPORTING INDIA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM WITH HEAVY WATER PLANT CONSTRUCTION. IN VIEW OF OUR EFFORTS TO HAVE FULL INFORMAL AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH IN THESE MATTERS, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON USG REACTIONS TO THIS ISSUE.

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